

Abstract

“The Interaction of Christianity and the Sanbo Kyodan – a Zen-Buddhist Religious Foundation.” The Sanbo Kyodan is a contemporary school of Zen that was founded by Yasutani Haku’un Roshi in 1954. Sanbo Kyodan has exerted considerable influence in the development of Zen in the West. Most important for the development of Sanbo Kyodan was Yasutani Roshi’s successor, Yamada Koun Roshi. He attracted a number of Western students, many of whom were Christian’s priests and nuns.

The paper aims to describe the Christian Zen movement influenced by Sanbo Kyodan. Essential is the work of the most important Yamada Koun’s students and verified Zen teachers. Among them were three Roman Catholic priests, Hugo M. Enomiya-Lassalle S.J., Ama Samy S.J. and Willigis Jäger OSB, who went on to become leading figures in the Christian Zen movement. The paper attempts to characterize their understanding of the relation between Zen and Christianity including differences among them.

The last part of the paper pays attention to inspiration which comes from interaction of Zen and Christianity, and suggests some points for meditation.

Keywords

Christianity, Buddhism, Zen, meditation, kensho, Sanbo Kyodan, Haku’un Ryoko Yasutani, Koun Yamada, Hugo Makibi Enomiya-Lassalle, Willigis Jäger, Ama Samy